help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides the Normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) seventeen vocational Rehabilitation centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following:

(a) Allotment of vending stafls, kiosks and petty shops;

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme;

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

Statement-II

Concessions to the relative/escorts of the handicapped

1. *Travel Concessions:*

Travel by Rail: Escorts accompanying the blind/orthopaedically and mentally handicapped persons are eligible for 75% concession in the basic fare. This is in addition to the concession for the disabled persons.

2. *Educational Allowance:* Reimbursement of tuition fees in respect of physically handicapped and mentally retarted children of the Central Government employees has been enhanced to Rs. 50/-.

3. *Income Tax Exemption:*

Deduction in respect of medical treatment of Handicapedd dependents: An assessee who had incurred any expenditure for medical treatment (including nursing) of any handicapped dependment suffering from permanent disability (including blindness/mental retardation) having the effect of reducing his capacity for normal work, is eligible for deduction of Rs. 15,000/- from his income.

Proposals for setting up Mini Steel Plants in U.P.

*297. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI NAGMANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from private sector for setting up mini-steel plants in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total capacity of estimated steel production therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. An entrepreneur wishing to set up an iron or steel unit does not require approval of Government for industrial licence unless the plant is proposed to be located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 Census and is also not located within the areas designated as 'industrial area' by State Government before July 25, 1991.

The term 'mini steel plant' generally refers to units of relatively smaller capacities manufacturing steel through the electric arc furnace route. As per the information available, no proposal is pending for grant of an industrial licence for setting up an electric arc furnace based steel plant in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Area Under Flood Water In Haryana

*298. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area still under flood water in Haryana and whether Government propose to give compensation to the owners of such land which will not be brought under cultivation due to flood water;